Import of arms

†1400. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the largest importer of the arms in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, what is the utility of Defence Research Organisation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed a number of armaments for the Armed Forces which have been produced indigenously by Indian Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertakings.

Indo-Russian joint venture for production of military hardware spares

1401. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently signed an agreement with Russia for setting up two production centres for joint production of spares for the military hardwares;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the production centres are likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) During the 3rd meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation, there has been a discussion on the issue of establishment of joint service centres on the territory of India for carrying out logistics and other product support for equipment delivered earlier. No agreement has been signed for setting up production centres for joint production of spares for the military hardwares.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.